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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,111	06/26/2003	James Michael Devine	7650-0018	9252

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EXAMINER

TON, MY TRANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2816

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,111

Applicant(s)

DEVINE ET AL.

Examiner

My-Trang N. Ton

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



MY-TRANG NUTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In response to Applicant's amendments, the rejection made in the last Office action on the Pryor (U.S Patent No. 4,408,245) and Chung (U.S Patent No. 6,535,026) are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lien (US Patent No. 6,104,229).

Line discloses in Fig. 6 an input buffer including:

an active pull-up device (501) coupled to a one-wire bus (inherent seen connected to Vout 212), wherein the active pull-up device (501) is configured to decrease the transition time of a voltage signal on the one-wire bus transitioning from a first voltage level to a second, higher voltage level; and

a level shift circuit (601) coupled to the active pull-up device (501) to circuit ground (207), the level shift circuit (601) providing a substantially constant reference voltage level (601 connected as a diode, it is inherent that diode has a substantially constant forward bias voltage) different than the circuit ground (207), wherein the active pull-up device (501) is configured to operate with respect to the constant reference

voltage level for decreasing the transition time of the voltage signal (with the same structure as recited, ostensibly the same function as recited in claim 1 is achieved).

Regarding claim 2: the voltage signal on the one wire bus includes a bias signal (Vin 211 is capable received signal from a bias signal) equal to the reference voltage level (the same function is achieved due to the same structure).

Regarding claim 3: Element 501 reads on the active pull up device has a voltage sense switch (501) that is coupled to the level shift circuit (601). Regarding the function recited in lines 2-last line: similarly as noted above, with the same structure, ostensibly the same function is achieved).

Regarding claim 4: the level shift circuit is a diode (601).

Claim 7 is similarly rejected as claim 1: a level shift circuit (601), a circuit ground (207), an active pull-up device (501), and one wire bus (inherent seen connected to Vout 212).

Claim 8 is similarly rejected as claim 2.

Claim 11 is similarly rejected as claim 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-6 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lien (U.S. Pat. No. 6,104,229) taken with the admitted prior art, Fig. 1.

As stated above, every element of the claimed invention recited in above claims can be seen in the circuit of Lien. However, this reference does not show the "at least one communication device" (claims 5, 12) and "a transceiver having a processor" (claim 6, 13) and "a transceiver and communication device" (claim 14).

Although Lien does not expressly state that the communication device or a transceiver, this difference is not of patentable merit since the input buffer in Fig. 6 might be a result of the communication/processor device.

With the advance of today's technology, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to realize that the input buffer in Fig. 6 of Lien can be implemented between transceiver 102 and subsystem 116 as shown in Fig. 1 of the prior art. Clearly, the input terminal 211 is capable of receiving the signal from transceiver (102), or the output Vout 212 is capable connected to subsystem (116) depending on the particular environment in which the circuit is employed and the desired output.

Claims 12-13 are similarly rejected as claims 5-6.

Regarding claim 14: an active pull-up device (501) and a level shift circuit (601). The same motivation applied to above claims 5-6 and 12-13 are applied to claim 14 regarding "a transceiver and a communication".

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Trang N. Ton whose telephone number is 571-272-1754. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m - 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2816

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



My-Trang N. Ton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

May 28, 2006